

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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Greetings Brethren,

Apologies for the delay in sending this out but I have just returned from the Solomon Islands.

Hopefully, there are parts which will be of interest to you all.

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A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.

THE EMBLEMS OF FREEMASONRY

The First Degree—Part 2

Apron

The Apron is the badge of Innocence, and the bond of Friendship. It is made of lamb-skin, and, as in all ages the Lamb has been acknowledged as the emblem of Innocence and Purity, it is intended to remind the Freemason of that purity of life which should at all times characterise members of the Brotherhood. It is worn by the operative mason to preserve his garments from spot or stain, and by the Speculative Freemason as a symbol that his aim throughout life should be so to conduct himself as to be able to appear before the Great Architect of the Universe, unstained by sin and unsullied by vice.

Foundation Stone

As it is customary at the erection of all stately and superb edifices to lay the foundation stone at the north-east corner of the building, the newly initiated Brother is placed in that position figuratively to represent that stone, so that he may receive an exhortation on the chief virtue of Freemasonry, and the real foundation on which the Order rests. And the Member of the Fraternity who is true to his faith will never forget his first lecture on Moral Architecture. Charity, we must ever remember, is the principal of all social virtues, and the distinguishing characteristic of Freemasons.

The Working Tools

The Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice are three in number - the twenty-four inch Gauge, the Mallet, and the Chisel, and each is rich in symbolism for the thoughtful Mason. They are the first tools presented to him in the Lodge, and it is by making diligent and careful use of them that he will best justify his admission and prepare himself for advancement in the Craft.

The Gauge

The 24-inch gauge is used by the Operative Mason to measure and lay out his work so as to compute the time and labour it will cost. Applied in a moral sense, it teaches the Speculative Mason a daily lesson of admonition and instruction for, as it is divided into 24 equal parts, it reminds him of the 24 hours of the day, and directs him to apply them in a fair division to their proper objects, which are prayer, labour, refreshment and sleep.

This feature is taken from William Harvey's book, "The Emblems of Freemasonry" 1918.



A Short Talk by a Young Master Mason following an Entered Apprentice conferral

From the moment we make the decision that we would like to be "***made a mason***" our Education in the Craft begins.

For some of you, no doubt, that decision was made a long, long time ago. For others the journey is just beginning.

Remember, with me, the excitement we felt as the petition was placed in the hands of the Mason who would present it on our behalf.

Also remember the way you felt on your first visit to the Lodge for the mysterious ceremony of Initiation you were about to undertake and the great mysteries of the "Masons" that you were about to learn.

If, like most, you were a little nervous, apprehensive and excited, then I say GOOD.

It is with the same spirit that I myself have found when approaching "Masonic Education" after having been made a Master Mason.

We think we have learned the Secrets, the Handshakes and even some of the History, but, it goes much deeper than that.

If Freemasonry is "***a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols***" how much have we really learned???

Some of the Brethren present, no doubt, know more about the symbols than you or I, some know more about the allegory and illusions, and no doubt, do not struggle with morality as do others.

We are all called upon to "***make daily advancements in the Craft***"

It is my role to remind you of that, and to call upon you to remember it with the same earnest zeal that you remember your first journey into Freemasonry.

I wish you well my Brothers, and hope you enjoy your early steps into Freemasonry, and that you will continue to take every opportunity to learn more about our Craft.

Bro. Brad Chesney, Star of the West Lodge #34. G.L. of. Alberta (Canada)

COMMENT

It is indeed unfortunate that so many men approach Freemasonry with the thought that they will be able to learn everything by some form of osmosis or injection. Freemasonry is a "**PERSONAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**" and as such must be taken **ALONE**.

You Called Me Brother!!

The Craft is a society with secrets, but until recently, the public at large thought it was a secret society.

The secrets must and will continue to be guarded, but a general understanding of what Masonry stands for and does is now becoming available to the ordinary citizen.

As a result, some of the old myths will be exploited, respect for our aims and activities will increase, and our numbers may grow – not because numbers as such matter, but because every additional citizen who joins and commits himself to a notable ethical movement brings added strength to society.

The point is stressed by the Scriptural passage that deals with God's command to take a census of the Israelites - but not by means of counting heads. No! Everyone who wished to be counted had to contribute half a shekel, and it was the half-shekels that were counted.

The lesson? That one should be impressed, not so much by mere numbers as by whether an individual was willing to make a worthwhile contribution.

What then is the worthwhile contribution that one makes as a Mason?

To me it is suggested by a story told by a Russian writer. He relates that a man is walking along and is accosted by another who asks him for alms. "I'm sorry, brother," is the reply, "I have nothing and cannot help you". "Don't worry," says the beggar, "you called me 'brother', and that's enough!"

This is the first thing that Masons learn to do, to call each other "brother". They meet in fellowship. They commence work in harmony and conclude in peace. They have their honest differences but respect each other the more highly for them. They see each other's virtues and with good humour tolerate each other's faults. Wherever they go, their unspoken motto echoes the words of Joseph, Et achai anochi mevakesh – "I go seeking my brethren" (Gen. 37:16). They know one can depend upon a brother.

They are not angels – far from it – and at times their brotherliness is found wanting, but never will they let themselves forget that it is goodly and pleasant to have a brother and to dwell in harmony. But more than this, even greater and far more momentous, they know that each fellow man is also a brother, and that to each fellow man one must be able to say,

Brother, I acknowledge you.
Brother, I trust you.
Brother, you can rely on me.
Brother, I honour your dignity.
Brother, I respect your opinion.
Brother, I rejoice in your success.
Brother, I am happy at your happiness.
Brother, I feel your pain.
Brother, I understand your need.
Brother, I support your hand.
Brother, the world needs you.
Brother, I need you.
Brother, even if I have nothing to give you, I call you 'brother'."

Someone has described this as the age of the unbrotherhood of man, and it is little wonder. There appears to be an epidemic of immorality wherever you turn. Injustice, exploitation, self-seeking, arrogance, callousness, corruption, victimization, viciousness, violence – no wonder the poet wrote, “A mighty wave of evil is passing over the world.”

There is an old allegory in the Talmud (Gen. R. 8:5, etc.). It tells that before creating man, God called the angels together and asked their opinion on what He had in mind. “Shall I create man?” He asked them.

“Create him not!” said the angel of Justice. “He will be unjust towards his brother man; he will injure the weak and exploit the vulnerable!”

“Create him not!” said the angel of Peace, “He will stain the earth with the blood of his brothers; he will spread mischief and discord wherever he goes!”

“Create him not!” said the angel of Truth, “Though You create him in Your image and stamp the impress of truth on his brow, yet will be desecrate Your creation with falsehood and dishonesty!”

They would have said still more, but Mercy, the youngest and dearest of them all, stepped up to the Divine Throne and said, “Father, create him! Make him in Your image, as the crowning glory of Creation. When others forsake him, I will be with him. I will touch his heart with pity and make him kind to others weaker than himself. When he goes astray, turning from the ways of justice, peace and truth, I will gently direct him back again to the upright path, and he will be a brother again to his fellow man!” The Father of Mercy, relates the tradition, listened to the voice of Mercy, and with Mercy’s support He created man.

Might one not be right in suspecting that there were times, possibly quite frequently, when the Almighty was tempted to regret His decision?

When Justice was slighted, and the other fellow did not get a fair go; when people gave in to blackmail and bribery; when you were decent to others, provided they belonged to your side, but the rights of others could be trampled on with impunity. When Peace was brushed aside, and even when there was no outright war there was no concern for each other, no understanding of each other, no goodwill and generosity of thought and deed.

When Truth was disdained, and the world grew full of broken promises, ambiguous half-truths and hypocritical double-talk.

And yet the angel of Mercy suggested there was a fundamental decency in human beings which would, with her help, at last rouse itself. And this is where the Masonic Craft has a crucial contribution to make. By learning to call each other “brother”, by learning to recognise a brother in every fellow man, Masonry will by attitudes and acts, help to build up the moral fibre of mankind.

Leo Baeck, a saint, scholar and sage, was imprisoned by the Nazis in Theresienstadt. He refused to compromise his dignity or become demoralized. He said on his release, “Some of us were determined to demonstrate that the goodness in man can be victorious over brutality and bestiality”.

If we are going to use this impressive service in the midst of this vast assembly as a spur and inspiration to anything, let it be our resolution that we renew our pledge to learn to call each other “brother” and thus to stand at all times, and wherever we may be, for the goodness in man.

If we are going to allow the eventful experiences of these Masonic gatherings to leave a permanent impress, let it be our determination that Masonry in Frontenac District will find fresh energy to be benevolent in the old ways, and new vigor to seek and adopt new ways to be of service to each other and to our society.

And may the Great Architect of the Universe, whose favors we acknowledge in reverence and humility, continue to preserve the Masonic Order, by cementing and adorning it with every moral and social virtue.

BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE
BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO AND
BE PROUD TO BE A MASON.

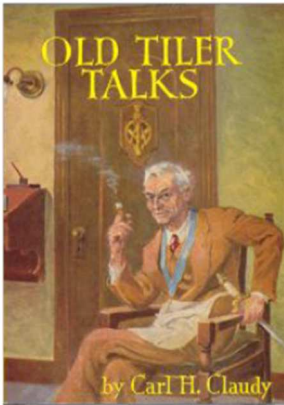
From The Educator

Will a Secretary get to Heaven ?

A Tribute to our unsung heroes No one will admit to being the Author!

If a Secretary writes a letter, it is too long
If he sends a post card, it's too short.
If he doesn't send a notice, he's lazy.
If he attends a committee meeting, he's butting in.
If he duns a member for dues, he's insulting.
If he fails to collect dues, he's slipping
If he asks for advice, he's incompetent.
If he does not, he's bull-headed.
If he writes reports complete, they're too long.
If he condenses them, they're incomplete
if he talks on a subject, he's trying to run things.
If he remains silent, he lost interest
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
If others won't do it, the Secretary must.





Old Tiler Talks— KINDS OF MASONS

"I am almost through!" The New Brother displayed a sheaf of cards to the Old Tiler. "Soon I will have joined them all and become every kind of Mason there is."

"What do you know about the kinds of Masons there are?" asked the Old Tiler, interested. "You have not been a Master Mason long enough to gain all that knowledge!"

"That's not hard to gain, with all the brethren poking petitions at you. There are Scottish Rite Masons and York Rite Masons and Templar Masons and Chapter Masons and council Masons and..." "Oh!" the syllable said much. The Old Tiler added, "I didn't understand. I thought you couldn't have learned yet."

"Learned what? Are there some more kinds of Masons?"

"Indeed, yes! answered the Old Tiler. "A great many kinds. But seven you haven't mentioned stand out more prominently than others."

"Do tell me! I thought I had joined most of them..."

"You don't join these. You become one, or are made one, or grow into one of them. For instance, there is the King Solomon Mason. He thinks that everything that Solomon did as a Mason is right and everything he didn't do is wrong. To him Masonry was conceived, born and grew up in the shadow of King Solomon, and every word of the legend is literally true, much like the man who refuses to believe the earth is round, because a verse in the Bible refers to the 'four corners of the earth!' The King Solomon Mason lives his Masonry according to his light; perhaps it's not his fault it is so dim.

"To the ritual Mason the importance of Masonry is the form of its words. A good Mason in his belief is one who can repeat a lecture from end to end without a slip. A man may do battle, murder, or cause sudden death, commit arson or run away with a neighbour's wife; if he knows his ritual letter perfect, it 'was all a mistake!' The man who doesn't know his ritual letter perfect is not, in this man's eyes, a good Mason; not though he give to charity with both hands and carry love for his fellowman in both head and heart.

"The practical Mason looks at life from a utilitarian standpoint. He prefers electricity to candles for Lesser Lights because they are simpler and prefers candles to electricity because they are cheaper. He thinks a choir impractical because it produces nothing permanent, and would rather spend the money for printed matter or a new carpet. He is at his best when raising money for a new temple and at his worst when asked to express himself upon the spirit of Masonry. His hand is in his pocket for charity, but never for entertainment. He is usually on the finance committee, and recommends a budget in which rent and heat and light are bigger than relief.

"The heart Mason is the opposite. He is full of impractical schemes. He wants to start a new temple which will never be built. He talks much of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, but is absent when the hat is passed and the committee on funds needs a few workers to go out and gather in. The heart Mason is the lodge sob-sister; he usually seconds any motion to spend any amount of money for flowers or to send a brother away for his health, and always makes a little tear-filled speech about the fatherless loved ones, even if the dear departed died a bachelor.

The business Mason belongs because he thinks it helps his job. He usually sits next to the solid businessman in lodge and likes to tell people what he does. If he is a Past Master, he never comes to lodge on time, so that he can get a special welcome at the Altar. His favourite speech is about the man who tried to advertise his business in lodge and how evil this was; in the speech he always mentions his own business. He wears an extra large sized pin and prints squares and compasses on his letterheads.

"We dominate another kind by the expressive term of belly Mason. He is most faithful in attendance at lodges where there may be a feed. He will cheerfully spend twenty cents carfare and a long evening to get a fifteen-cent sandwich. If there is to be a sit-down meal he will sit up all night to be on time. If the affair is in another lodge and needs tickets he will take time off from his job to hunt a brother who has a ticket and doesn't want it. He usually manages to cross the lodge room while the cigars are passed so he can dig into the box twice. If the crowd is small, he is the last man to get a smoke, so he can take all that are left. If the crowd is large, he is among the first, to make sure he doesn't get left.

"And then there is the regular Mason- the fellow who does his best with the time and brains he has. He is the great bulk of the fraternity. He pays the dues and fills the chairs and does the work. He is seldom a fine ritualist, but he is usually an earnest one. He is not very practical, and would spend more than we have if it wasn't that he is too sentimental to permit the charity fund to be robbed. He passes the sandwiches and coffee, and if there is any left he gets his; but he doesn't care so long as the evening is a success. He isn't a student, but something in the heart of Masonry has reached deep into his heart, and so he comes to lodge and does his best. He is not learned, but he is not stupid. He is not hidebound, and yet he is conservative. He loves his lodge, but not so much he cannot see her faults. He is most of us."

"And what class of Mason am I?" asked the New Brother, uneasily looking at his sheaf of cards.

"You have cards enough to be considered a Mason for almost any reason," answered the Old Tiler.

"But I'll take your word for it. What kind of Mason are you?"

"I don't know for sure, but I know what kind I am never going to be!" answered the New Brother, putting his many cards away.



What Freemasonry Teaches Me

Taken from "The Gavel and Freemasonry's Journal", December, 1870; Re-printed in THE TRACING BOARD, G.R.S.; March, 1976

A few days since, a gentleman outside the Masonic Fraternity asked us what Masonry taught. We will answer what it teaches us, and he will tell us whether the lessons be good ones or not.

Masonry teaches us the existence of a God as a being of Love, Light and Power. It teaches us that alone we are powerless and as others help us over rough and dangerous places, so should we do unto others.

It teaches us to look up for that Light which will be an unerring guide and that no matter how often we forget, there is a place where we can obtain information.

It teaches us to be kind of heart, to cultivate friendly feelings; to not tell all we know; to be circumspect and to realize that, others before us have walked the road we are on, and that others will follow after we are gone.

It teaches us to help the needy and to defend the deserving; to care for the children of brothers and to treat their wives with the same kind, gentlemanly respect we would have others show to those we love dearest of all on earth.

It teaches honesty, industry, frugality and liberality of thought.

It teaches us to be careful to preserve the good reputation of a brother as we would have him be careful to preserve ours; to be very careful not to say or hint or insinuate anything against him and his honesty and the better man and brother he is, the more careful should we be to help keep him so, and to encourage him to be more so. And it also teaches us to be careful and not report what he has told us at any time or place where it could be construed to his disadvantage or injury.

It teaches us to look upon every mason as a younger brother, to be watched over, helped, encouraged, protected, cared for in sickness and carefully laid away after life's fitful trials be ended and he has been called to the Land in the East and the resting place and refreshment under the sun, in the cooling breeze where murmuring fountains play and none are with us but those we love.

Lodge Birthdays

Tony Owen	28
David Blackwell	15
John Warmington	11
Mark Raffles	7
Garry Jordan	5
Brenton Terry	4 (J)
Scott Manley	3
John Patterson	5

News from the South

A delegation went to the Lodge of Fiji Installation in June—those attending were W. Bro. James Kluck, W. Bro. Russell Chilton, W. Bro. J-L. Bador and W. Bro. Bernie Cain.

It teaches us to defend virtue, to never tell a falsehood, to build up, protect and encourage the poor and the laborious, no matter whether of our fraternity or not and always to work for the best interests of one's country, more that to oppress the poor and all craftsmen who labour.

It teaches us virtue, sobriety, discretion, earnestness and charity to all, with a beautiful faith in God and his goodness.

It teaches us to defend the honor of a brother; to stand between him and danger; to be as careful of the good name of a brother's loved ones as of our own honor; to look upon them as sacred objects at all times, for whom we are ready to spill our blood if need require this test of knightly honor and that we should study to so live and act as to never make a brother ashamed of us or to wound his feelings or cause him to other than love us for our worth, virtue, honor, goodness, nobleness, and thoughtful care.

It teaches us to be kind to all; to always befriend the poor, no matter who or where found; to forgive as we would be forgiven; and to speak not against a brother but kindly to him, face to face, when he has erred or is likely to.

It teaches us lessons in harmonious brotherhood and to control ourselves, our tongue, our passions and our lives and that in the Lodge as in the Eternal, there is one place where difference in politics, in religion, in possession of riches or honor is unknown, for before the Beautiful Light in the East we are all brothers.

From The Educator



Humour

If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates. ~Jay Leno~

The problem with political jokes is they get elected. ~Henry Cate, VII~

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office ~Aesop~

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven. ~Will Rogers~

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river. ~Nikita Khrushchev~

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. ~Clarence Darrow~

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. ~John Quinton~

Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. ~Author unknown~

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. ~Oscar Ameringer~

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. ~Adlai Stevenson, 1952~

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country. ~Tex Guinan~

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians. ~Charles de Gaulle~

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. ~Doug Larson~

There ought to be one day -- just one -- when there is open season n Congressmen and/or women. ~Will Rogers~

There is a government position in the UK called the "Lord Privy Seal," and during WW II, Winston Churchill didn't much like the fellow who filled that office, and one suspects the feeling was mutual. One morning Churchill's secretary knocked on the bathroom door and said, "Sir Winston, the Privy Seal is on the telephone." Sir Winston replied . . . "Please tell the Privy Seal that I am sealed to the privy, and I can only deal with one shit at a time!"